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R United States. Dept. of State.
971 Letters, from the Secretary of
.034 State to the Committee of Ways
UNI and Means...

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Letters from Secretary of State
relative to bringing back to the U.S.
destitute and distressed American Sea

March 11, 1814.

4 pp.

[81]

LETTERS

FROM

THE SECRETARY OF STATE

TO THE

COMMITTEE OF WAYS AND MEANS,

ACCOMPANYING

A bill authorising the secretary of state, during the continuance of the present war, to make an additional allowance to the owners and masters of vessels for bringing back to the United States, destitute and distressed American seamen; presented 11th March, 1814.

WASHINGTON CITY:

PRINTED BY ROGER C. WEIGHTMAN.

1814.

THE HISTORY OF THE

REIGN OF CHARLES THE FIRST

BY JOHN BURNET

IN TWO VOLUMES

LONDON: Printed by J. Sturges, at the Black-Swan in St. Dunstons Church-yard, 1704.

THE FIRST PART OF THE HISTORY OF THE REIGN OF CHARLES THE FIRST

FROM HIS MARRIAGE TO HIS DEATH

IN TWO VOLUMES

THE SECOND PART OF THE HISTORY OF THE REIGN OF CHARLES THE FIRST

FROM HIS DEATH TO HIS BURIAL

IN TWO VOLUMES

THE THIRD PART OF THE HISTORY OF THE REIGN OF CHARLES THE FIRST

FROM HIS BURIAL TO HIS REBELLION

IN TWO VOLUMES

THE FOURTH PART OF THE HISTORY OF THE REIGN OF CHARLES THE FIRST

FROM HIS REBELLION TO HIS DEATH

IN TWO VOLUMES

THE FIFTH PART OF THE HISTORY OF THE REIGN OF CHARLES THE FIRST

FROM HIS DEATH TO HIS BURIAL

IN TWO VOLUMES

THE SIXTH PART OF THE HISTORY OF THE REIGN OF CHARLES THE FIRST

FROM HIS BURIAL TO HIS REBELLION

LETTERS.

DEPARTMENT OF STATE,

JANUARY 5th, 1814.

SIR,

The appropriation for the last year, for the subsistence in foreign countries, and the passages home, of our destitute seamen, being exhausted, and many claims on that account having been recently presented, which it is impossible to liquidate, I have to ask your early attention to the subject of a new appropriation for this object, conformably to the amount of the estimate laid before you by the treasury department, for the current year.

It seems proper indeed that the law of 1803, in relation to seamen, which was adapted to a state of peace, should be altogether repealed, and that seamen, whether prisoners or not, in a destitute condition should be put on the same footing. This law, according to the construction given it, allows nothing more than ten dollars, including provisions, for the passage home of seamen, from whatever part of the world they may have embarked. In a state of peace this operation of the law was not objected to, but since the war its effect on individuals, and even consuls, has been very injurious. With respect to prisoners it is different. There being no law prescribing the allowances to be made on their account, other than that appropriating a gross yearly sum, a discretion is afforded for making payments in relation to them, according to circumstances, and as justice shall dictate.

I recommend, therefore, the abolition of the law of February, 1803, and the appropriation of a gross sum for destitute seamen, to be expended on the same principle, and under the same supervision, as that in relation to prisoners of war.

I have the honor to be,

With great respect, sir,

Your obedient servant,

JAS. MONROE.

Honorable John W. Eppes,

chairman of committee of ways and means.

Department of State, January 8th, 1814,

SIR,

I have had the honor to receive your letter of the 3d instant, enclosing a resolution of the house of representatives, in relation to claims for the transportation to the United States of their destitute seamen, found in foreign countries.

My letter of the 5th instant, will have apprised you of the injurious operation of the law of 1803, in relation to this subject, in time of war, and recommended the provisions to be made which were thought most proper as a remedy. But these provisions had regard only to the future, whilst your letter refers to the past. To provide for these latter cases, therefore, it will be proper to add a clause to the repealing act, giving the secretary of state, or some other officer, authority to allow such claims as may have originated since the war, and as may be reasonable, for returning destitute American seamen to the United States, any thing contained in that act to the contrary notwithstanding.

I have the honor to be,


With great respect, sir,

Your obedient servant,

JAS. MONROE.

Honorable John W. Eppes,

chairman of committee of ways and means.



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10